

REPORT NO. 8-5-49 WDCS - INTELLIGENCE REPORT I. D. NO. 534858
 SUBJECT: Russian Communist Indocctrination Program Among Austrian PW's
 FROM: ODI, USFA REFERENCES: Army Control No. WE-827
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 PREPARED BY: James D. Lewis SOURCE: Various

SUMMARY OR SID REPORT:

Reference is made to Department of the Army Control No. WE-827. The following report summarizes all information available thus far to USFA sources on the history, purpose, training program and general effects of the Russian Communist indoctrination program carried out among German and Austrian PW's. It treats the following specific topics:

1. Headquarters School for Antifa Training in Moscow
2. Antifa affiliations with the WVD
3. School program
4. Curriculum of the Moscow Antifa School
5. Job placement after graduation

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6. Antifa schools subordinate to the Moscow headquarters
7. General Antifa activities in various PW camps

The initial impetus seems to have been given to the Soviet program of Communist indoctrination in the early spring of 1943 when General von Paulus issued his proclamation calling on PW's in the Soviet Union to join in establishing the "Free Germany Movement". The main school for Antifa training in Moscow was set up shortly thereafter and the first class of "Activists" graduated in the fall of 1943. Other secondary schools for Antifa training seem to have acted primarily as a source of supply and a selection center for personnel to be sent to the main school in Moscow. During the course of the war all PW were apparently organized within the "Free Germany Movement", but in the summer of 1945 after the German capitulation they were separately organized along national lines. No estimate is available of the number of "Activists" graduated from the Moscow school between 1943 and the middle of 1948, but it is believed that the total would not exceed 10,000 PW of all nationalities.

The Antifa training program for PW in the Soviet Union was centered in the "Political School for Anti-Fascist Doctrine" in Moscow, which in six to nine month courses trained "Activists" among the PW. The Moscow headquarters school

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Seems also to have operated a series of preparatory schools in various parts of the separate Soviet Republics, from which selected candidates were sent to the main school in Moscow. The principle training program was designed to give its graduates a basic indoctrination in militant Communist ideology, with heavy emphasis on the role and function of the Soviet Armed Forces, and to equip him for service after graduation as a minor MVD agent and Communist party propagandist. After his schooling was completed, the "Activist" was assigned directly to the Political Officer in a PW camp, who employed him to conduct indoctrination lectures among the other PW, as well as observe and report on any individuals suspected of planning to escape, of not fulfilling their assigned quotas of work, or of spreading subversive propaganda among other PW. "Activists" were generally disliked by their compatriots, since they not only acted directly as agents for the Soviet Union, but they received substantially better pay, food, clothing and quarters than other PW, and were comparatively unrestricted in their movements.

Antifa indoctrination among PW camps in general seems to have varied widely both in quantity and in intensity. In some camps attendance at weekly indoctrination lectures was compulsory, at others purely voluntary. In various PW camps indoctrination lectures were not held at all or only at irregular and infrequent intervals. Some camp leaders confined their local Antifa indoctrination to occasional handbills distributed among PW, and to wall posters. These

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apparent haphazard variations seem to be the product of indifference or apathy on the part of the individual camp commander, and as such do not permit at this level any satisfactory conclusion concerning the extent of a clear overall Soviet Antifa training program.

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